PAUL DANO
STEVAN SUBIC
THE RIDDLER
YEAR ONE
BOOK TWO
DC
BLACK LABEL
AGES 17+
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THE RIDDLER
YEAR ONE

WRITER
PAUL DANO

ARTIST
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LETTERER **CLAYTON COWLES**

COVER BY **BILL SIENKIEWICZ**
VARIANT COVER BY **STEVAN SUBIC**
1:25 VARIANT COVER BY **JORGE FORNÉS**
1:50 VARIANT COVER BY **KENT WILLIAMS**

BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH **BILL FINGER**

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S OKAY TO BE SHY. I WAS A SHY KID TOO.
EDWARD.

MY NAME IS THOMAS. WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN SCHOOL, EDWARD?

I LIKE... RIDDLES.
AND PUZZLES. AND NUMBERS.
RIDDLES!

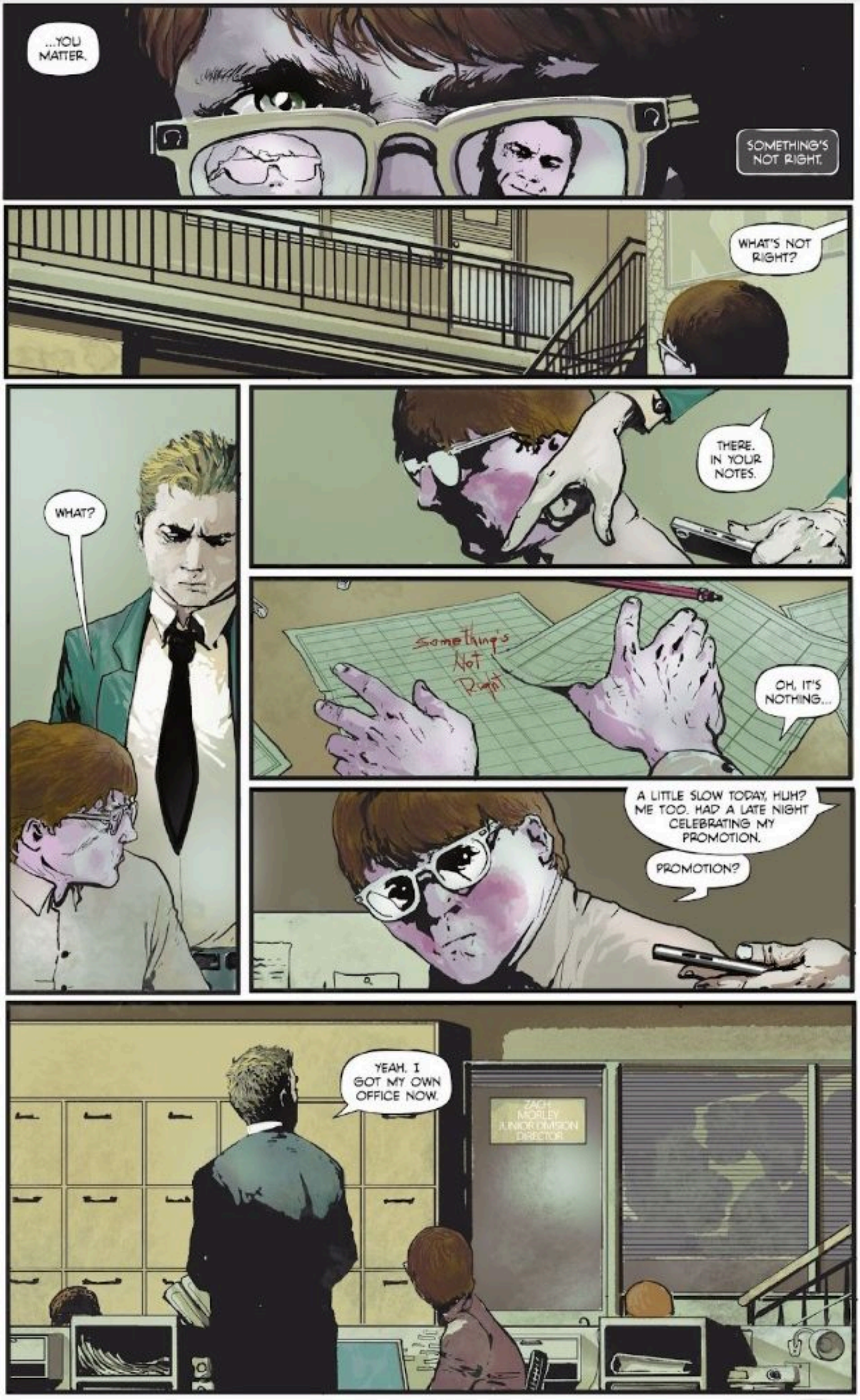
RIDDLES AND PUZZLES AND NUMBERS! WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT OUR RENEWAL PROGRAM COULD HELP A SMART YOUNG KID LIKE YOU GO TO A SPECIAL MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOL?

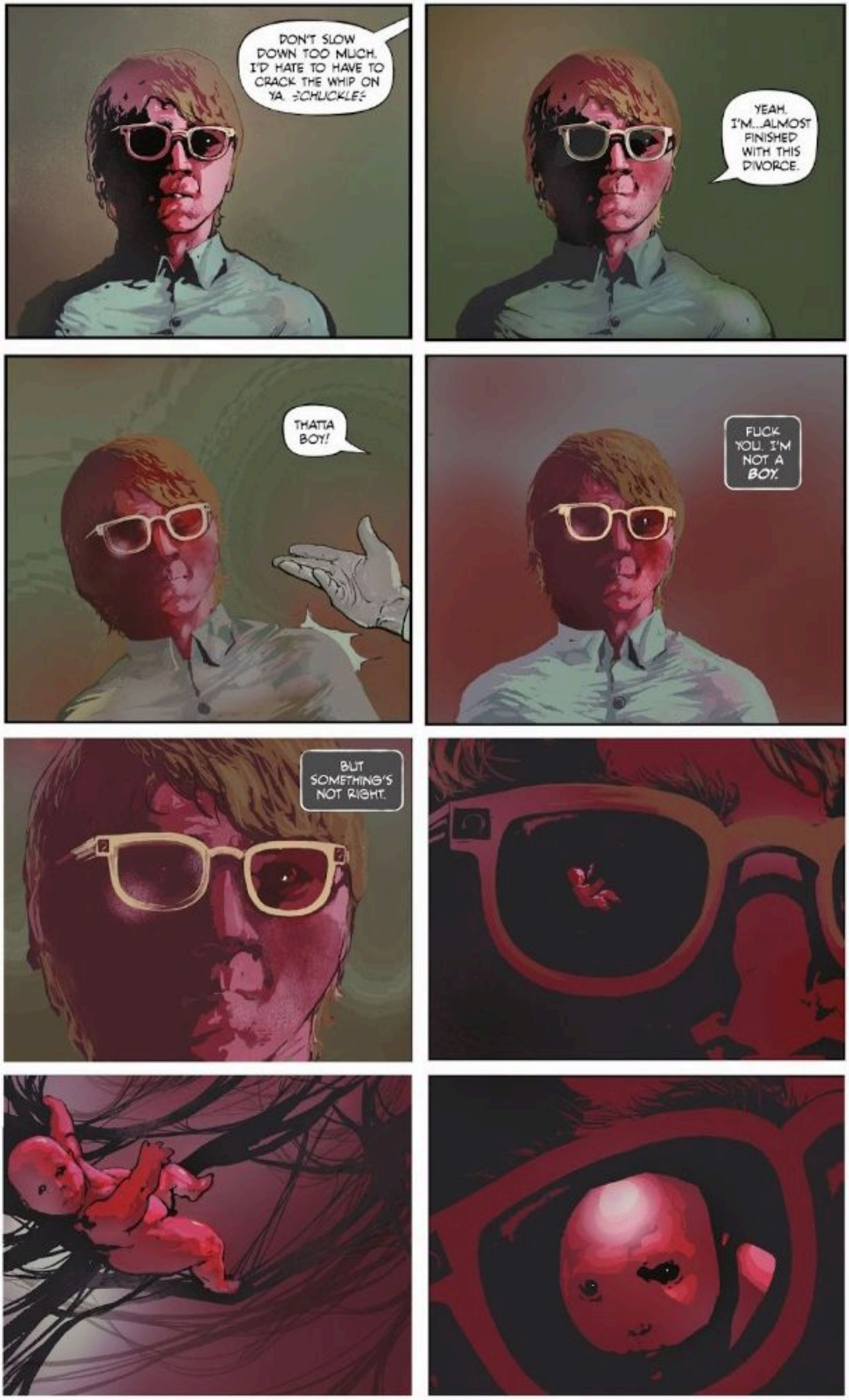
REALLY?

HERE'S A RIDDLE FOR YOU, EDWARD. WHAT IS ALWAYS IN FRONT OF YOU, BUT CANNOT BE SEEN?

THE FUTURE.

THAT'S RIGHT! AND YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT, EDWARD. BECAUSE REMEMBER...

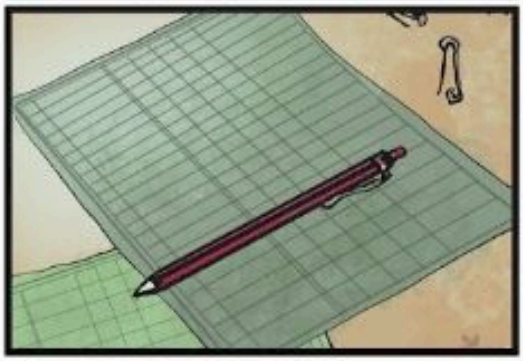

...YOU MATTER.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
WHAT'S NOT RIGHT?
WHAT?
THERE. IN YOUR NOTES.
Something's Not Right
OH, IT'S NOTHING...
A LITTLE SLOW TODAY, HUH? ME TOO. HAD A LATE NIGHT CELEBRATING MY PROMOTION.
PROMOTION?
YEAH. I GOT MY OWN OFFICE NOW.
ZACH MORLEY JUNIOR DIVISION DIRECTOR


DON'T SLOW DOWN TOO MUCH. I'D HATE TO HAVE TO CRACK THE WHIP ON YA. :CHUCKLE:
YEAH. I'M...ALMOST FINISHED WITH THIS DIVORCE.
THATTA BOY!
FUCK YOU. I'M NOT A BOY.
BUT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

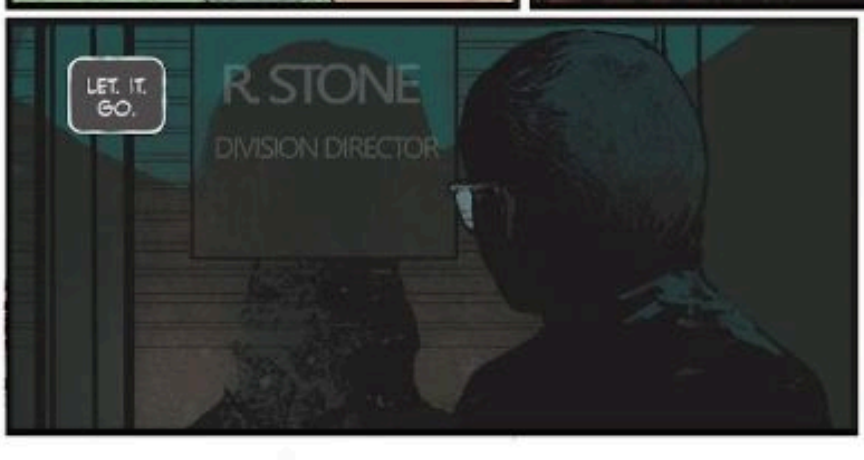
STOP OBSESSING.

janitor

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. IT'S JUST A NUMBER.

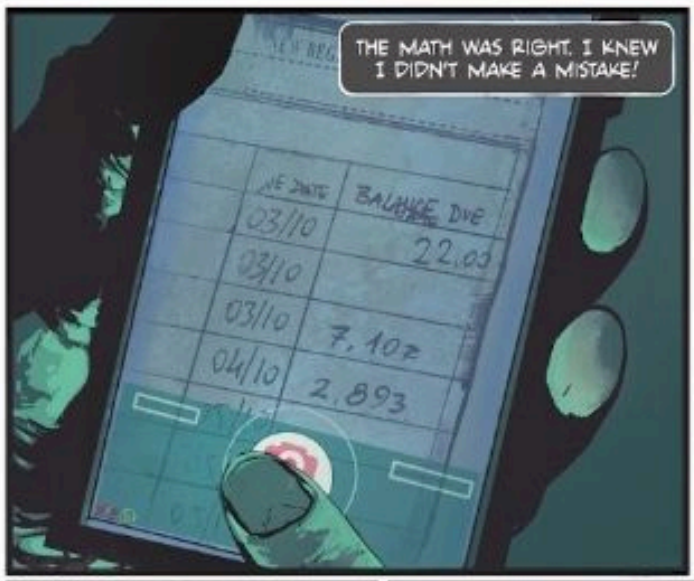


YOU COULD GET IN TROUBLE.

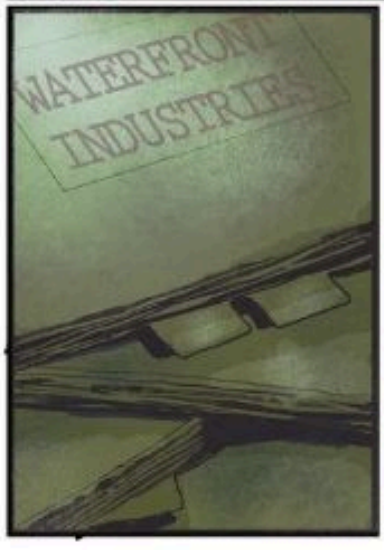

LET. IT. GO.
R. STONE
DIVISION DIRECTOR

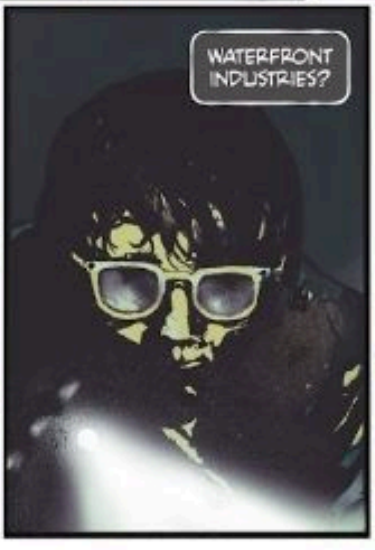
BUT I CAN'T.

THERE YOU ARE.

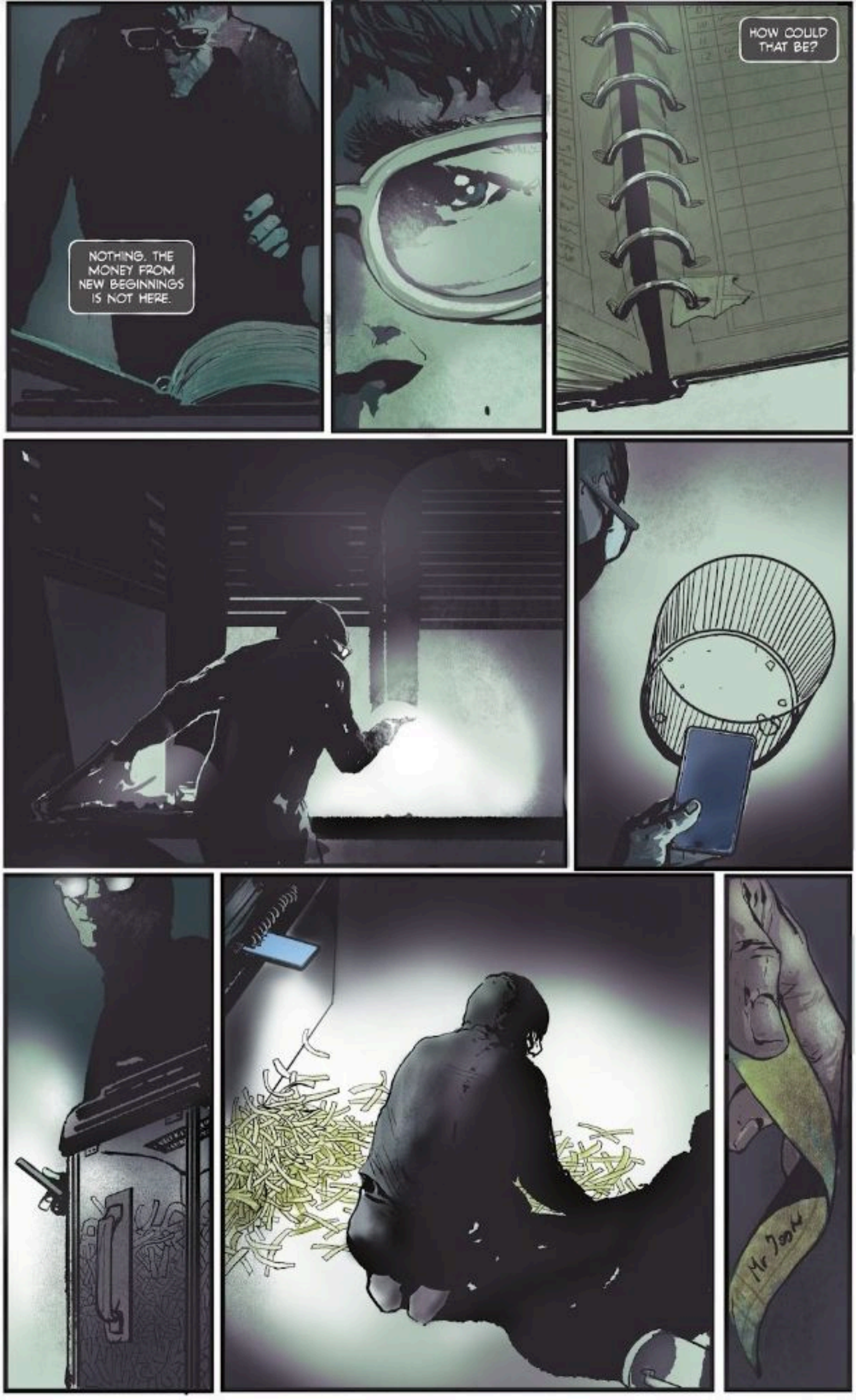

THE MATH WAS RIGHT. I KNEW I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE!
03/10
03/10
03/10
04/10
22.05
7,102
2.893

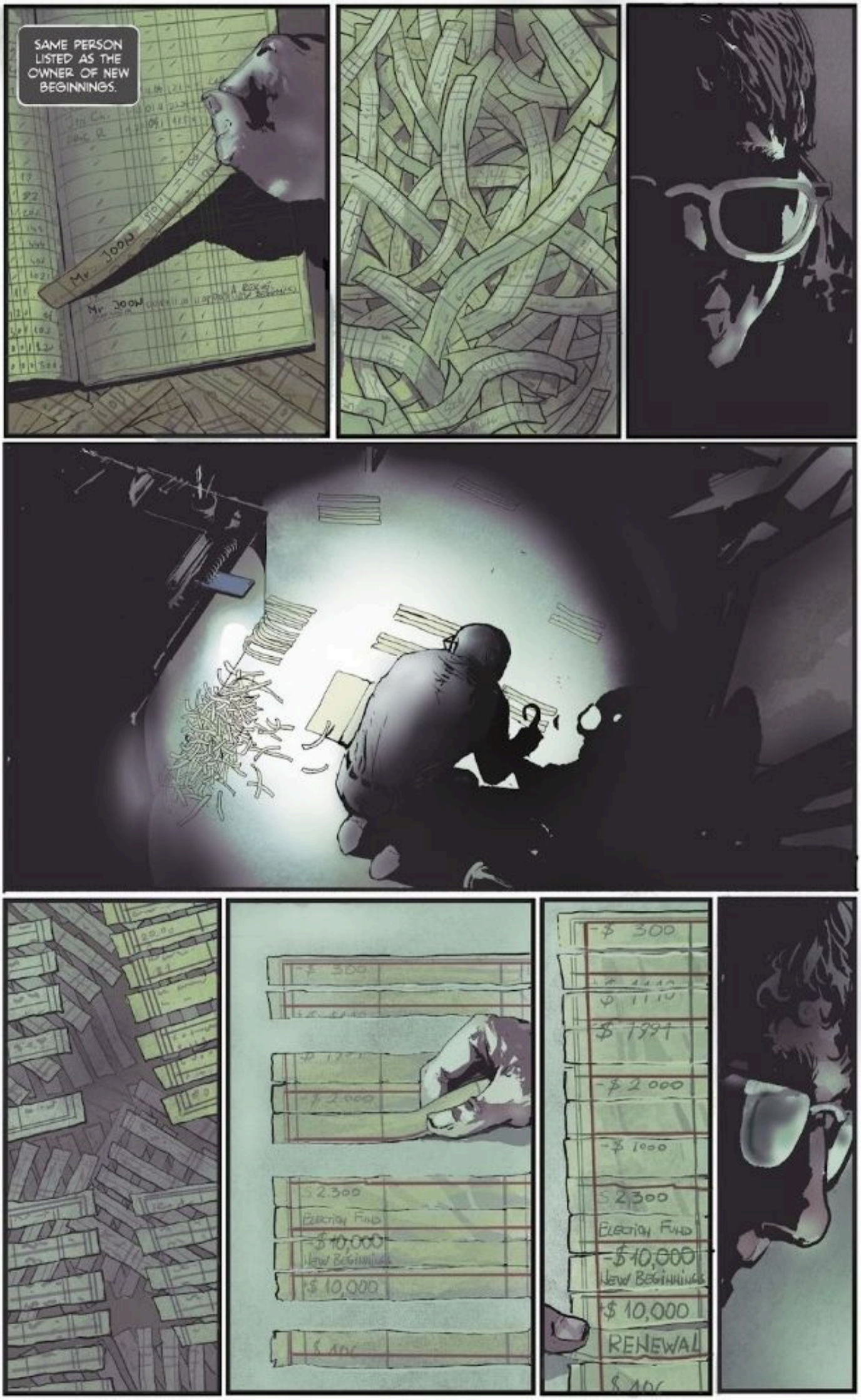
MARONI DRUG BUST!
BUT WHY DIDN'T THEY LISTEN TO ME?


WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES


WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES?

WE REPRESENT THEM TOO?


NOTHING. THE MONEY FROM NEW BEGINNINGS IS NOT HERE.
HOW COULD THAT BE?
Mr Jones


SAME PERSON LISTED AS THE OWNER OF NEW BEGINNINGS.
Mr JOON
Mr JOON
-$ 300
-$ 1997
-$ 2 000
-$ 1000
$ 2300
ELECTION FUND
-$ 10,000
NEW BEGINNINGS
$ 10,000
RENEWAL

$ 10,000
RENEWAL
SOMEONE'S SENDING DIRTY MONEY TO RENEWAL!
THE RIDDLER: Year One
Chapter 2 People lie numbers don't

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
RENEWAL
FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SOMEONE'S SENDING DIRTY MONEY TO RENEWAL.
DISGUSTING.
EATING OUR GARBAGE, THEN SPREADING DISEASE LIKE A PARASITE.
RATS BELONG IN CAGES.
OR BETTER YET, DEAD.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT, ED?

EXCUSE ME? DID YOU JUST SAY MY--
STAY CALM, EDWARD.
JUST BREATHE, EDWARD.
HE'S JUST ANOTHER GOTHAM CRAZY, EDWARD.
HE'S PROBABLY ON DROPS, EDWARD.
OR MAYBE YOU ARE FINALLY CRACKING UP.

SHHHIFT YOUR FOCUS, EDWARD.

WHAT YOU FOCUS ON IS WHAT YOU CREATE.

DON'T DO IT, EDWARD
RENEWAL
PROGRAM
APPLICATION
Email Address
Enter Your Email
Password
Enter Your Password
HOW MANY TIMES CAN YOU PUT YOURSELF THROUGH THIS, TRYING TO FIND AN ANSWER...
RENEWAL
...A MISSING PIECE...
APPLICATION
E. Nashton 3/99 rejected
E. Nashton 3/00 rejected
E. Nashton 3/01 rejected
E. Nashton 3/02 rejected
E. Nashton 3/03 rejected
E. Nashton 3/04 rejected
E. Nashton 3/05 rejected
E. Nashton 3/06 rejected
E. Nashton 3/07 rejected
E. Nashton 3/08 rejected
E. Nashton 3/09 rejected
...THAT WILL NEVER BE FOUND.
RENE SAYS YOU CAN LOOK BACK...
...JUST DON'T GET CAUGHT STARING.
BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

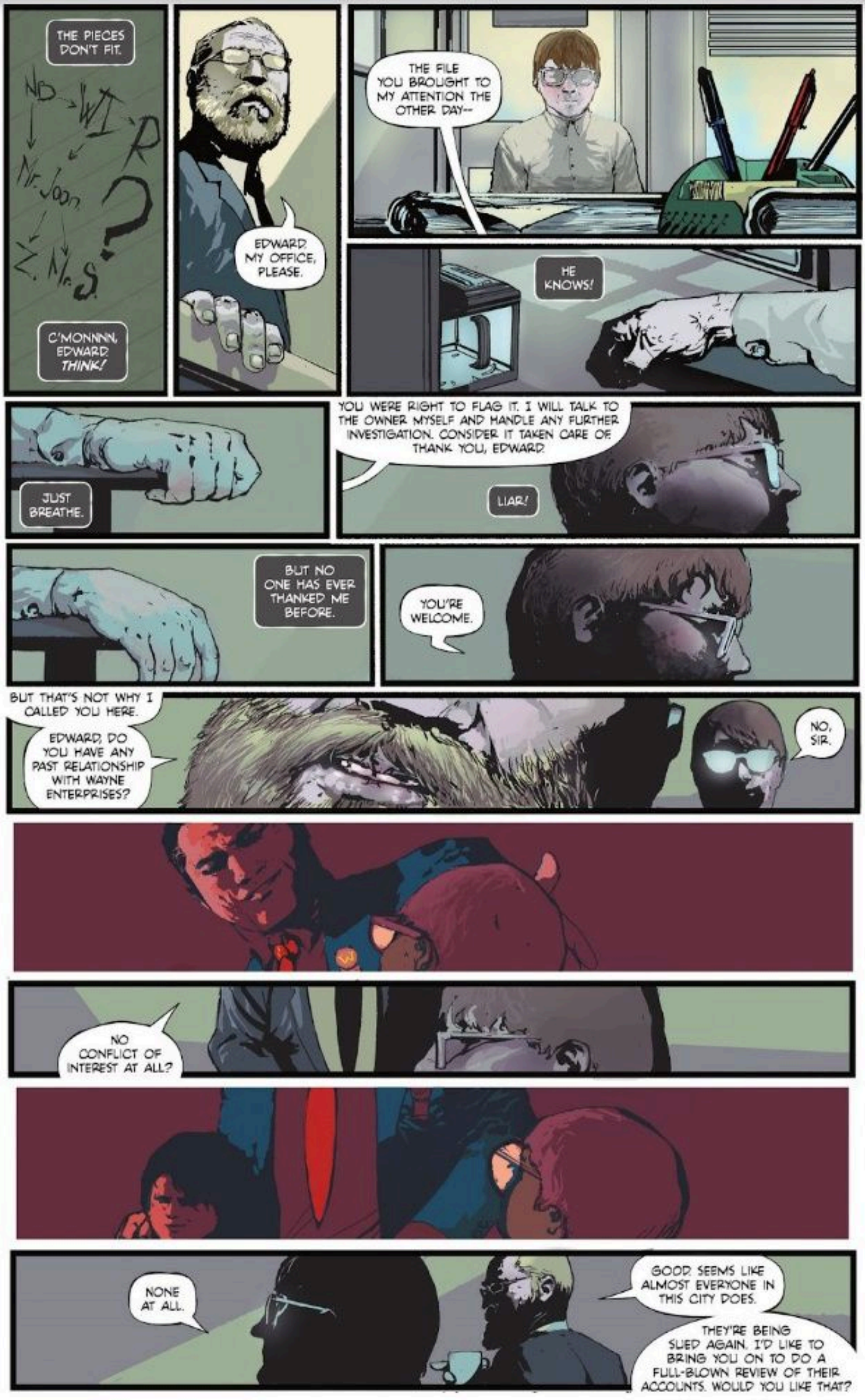
I keep Trying To go back
To understand, how?
Why?
Leave no man behind
Here in This file
are The pieces
of my broken spirit
Could it be so Painful...
To be ALIVE?

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN REJECTED.
ZACH MORLEY JUNIOR DIVISION DIRECTOR
PASSED OVER.
LEFT DANGLING BY MY FINGERNAILS ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.
TOO WEAK, TOO SCARED, TOO WORTHLESS TO SCREAM...
...."HELP ME, I'M FALLING."
HOW COME WHENEVER I TRY TO SCREAM IT NEVER MAKES A SOUND?
SHHH. JUST BREATHE.

BUT SOMEONE'S SENDING DIRTY MONEY TO RENEWAL.
START FROM THE TOP, EDWARD.
YOU MATTER
New Beginnings Animal Rescue
Mr. Joon?
GOTHAM
RENEWAL CORP
NEW BEGINNINGS
ANIMAL RESCUE

BANK
SHHH.
JUST BREATHE.
HE'S CHECKING TO SEE IF ANYONE'S WATCHING.
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

Handoff
Money?
Drugs?
ONE WAY
BE CAREFUL, EDWARD.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO HOME.
BUT I DON'T HAVE A HOME.
NO. STOP.
RENE SAYS, "YOU ARE HOME WITHIN YOURSELF."
BUT WHY WOULD THE OWNER OF TWO BUSINESSES LIVE IN A SHITTY HOUSING PROJECT?


THE PIECES DON'T FIT.
ND
WI
R
Mr. Joon
Z.
M.
S.
?
C'MONNNN, EDWARD. THINK!
EDWARD. MY OFFICE, PLEASE.
THE FILE YOU BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THE OTHER DAY--
HE KNOWS!
JUST BREATHE.
YOU WERE RIGHT TO FLAG IT. I WILL TALK TO THE OWNER MYSELF AND HANDLE ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION. CONSIDER IT TAKEN CARE OF. THANK YOU, EDWARD.
LIAR!
BUT NO ONE HAS EVER THANKED ME BEFORE.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED YOU HERE.
EDWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY PAST RELATIONSHIP WITH WAYNE ENTERPRISES?
NO, SIR.
NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST AT ALL?
NONE AT ALL.
GOOD. SEEMS LIKE ALMOST EVERYONE IN THIS CITY DOES.
THEY'RE BEING SUED AGAIN. I'D LIKE TO BRING YOU ON TO DO A FULL-BLOWN REVIEW OF THEIR ACCOUNTS. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?

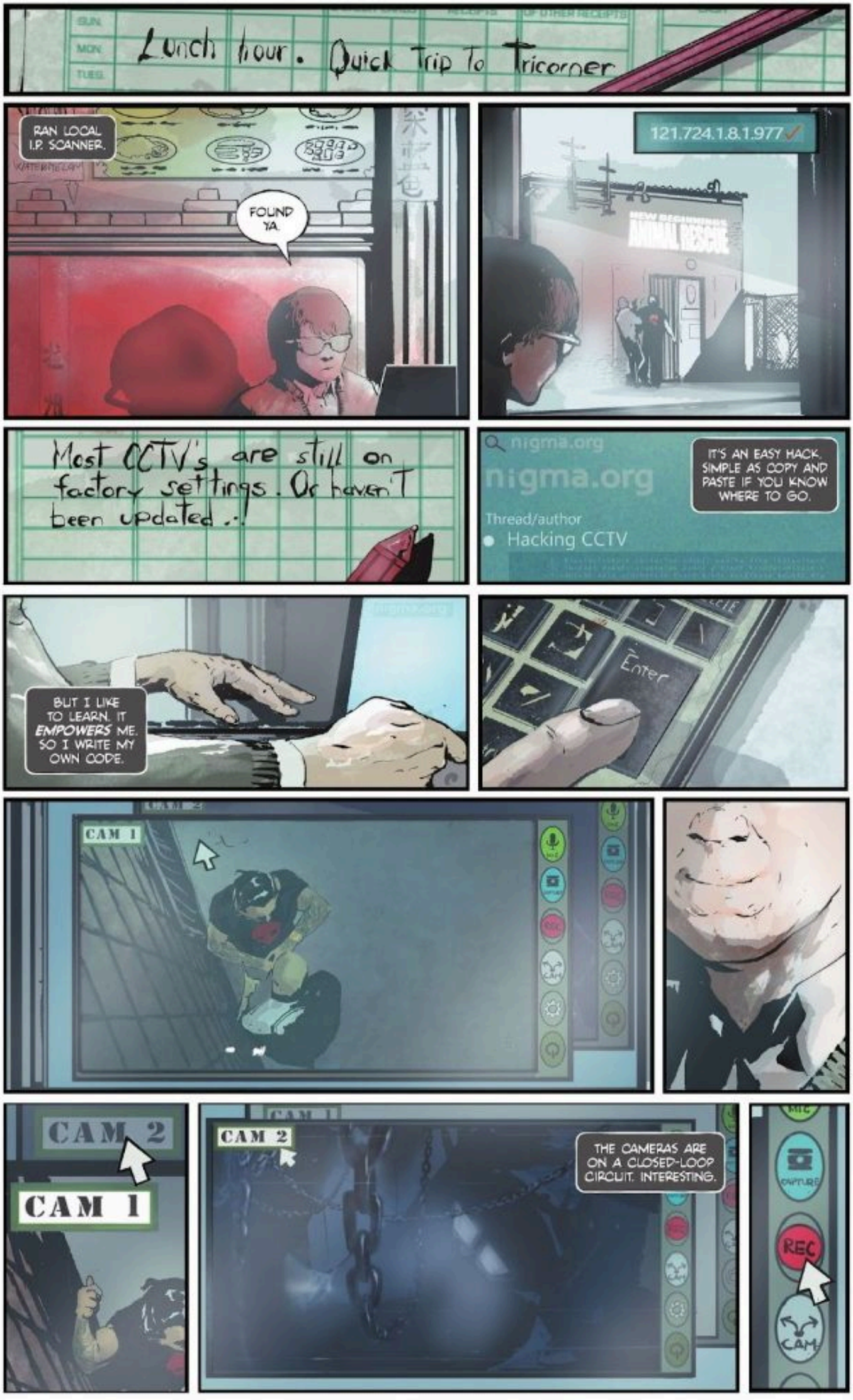
COULD IT BE... THAT SOMETHING GOOD...COULD HAPPEN TO ME?

COULD IT BE...THAT THIS BRAIN WILL FINALLY GET PUT TO USE?

COULD IT BE THAT I MIGHT FEEL SOMETHING OTHER THAN THIS PAIN?

LIAR.

THEY'RE ALL LIARS!
THE PIECES DON'T FIT.
BUT WHO CAN I TURN TO IF I SEE SOMETHING WRONG?
IF I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE FOUND?
nigma.org
nigma.org
"It's all a front for the mob!"
"The government wants everyone on drops so they can control us!"
GOTHAM DAILY
IF I CAN'T GO TO MY SUPERIORS...
THIS LETTER CONFIRMS YOUR EMPLOYMENT WITH KTMJ IS TERMINATED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
...IF I CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE...
GOTHAM CRIMINAL
...THEN WHO CAN I TURN TO FOR HELP?
THE ANSWER IS NO RIDDLE.
THE ANSWER IS NO ONE.
We talked with Richard Stone a
in his career he
honest and loya
family man who
OTHAM TIMES
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIE. NUMBERS DON'T.


Lunch hour. Quick Trip To Tricorner
RAN LOCAL I.P. SCANNER.
FOUND YA.
121.724.1.8.1.977
Most CCTV's are still on factory settings. Or haven't been updated...
nigma.org
nigma.org
Thread/author
Hacking CCTV
IT'S AN EASY HACK. SIMPLE AS COPY AND PASTE IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO.
BUT I LIKE TO LEARN. IT EMPOWERS ME. SO I WRITE MY OWN CODE.
Enter
CAM 1
CAM 2
CAM 1
CAM 2
THE CAMERAS ARE ON A CLOSED-LOOP CIRCUIT. INTERESTING.
CAPTURE
REC
CAM

WAYNE
enterprises

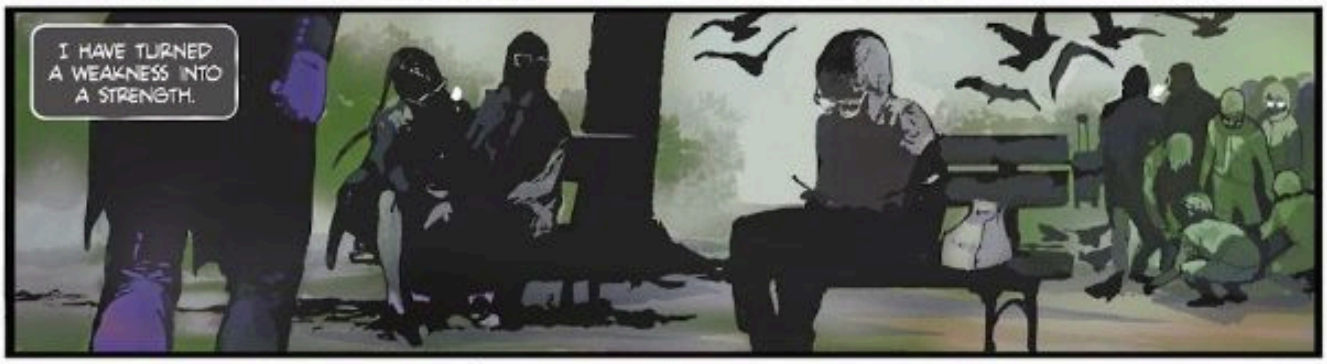
ANOTHER LUNCH HOUR. I FIND A SAFE PLACE TO REVIEW FOOTAGE.

DISCRETION IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

CAM 3

3

M 3
INVISIBILITY IS MY POWER.

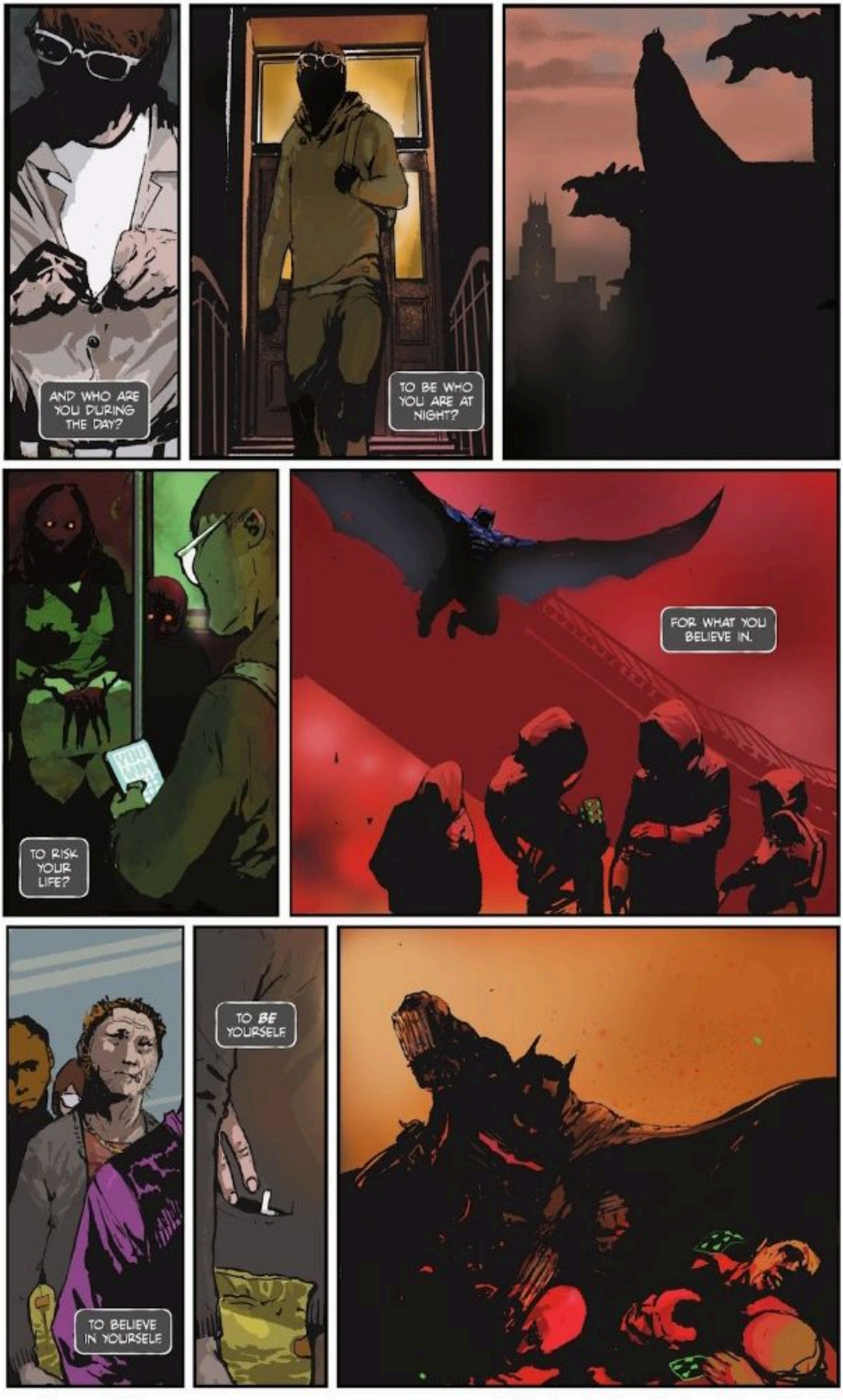

I HAVE TURNED A WEAKNESS INTO A STRENGTH.

CAM 2
THEN I SEE IT. DROPS.

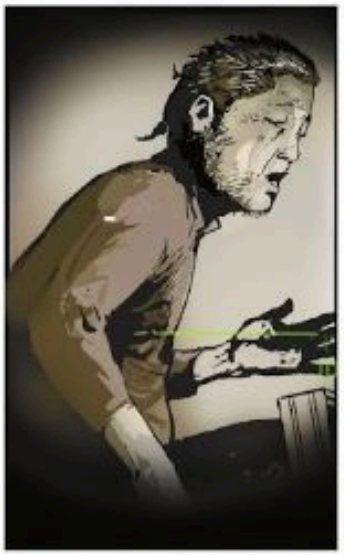
OF COURSE!

2nd camera = someone watching over their product ∴

HOW DO YOU DO IT?
HOW DID YOU TAKE THE LEAP?
TO TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.
WHEN EVERYONE ELSE AROUND YOU LOOKS THE OTHER WAY.
DO YOU EVER GET SCARED?
ARMY NAVY STORE
OF WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND, OR WHAT YOU MIGHT DO?


AND WHO ARE YOU DURING THE DAY?
TO BE WHO YOU ARE AT NIGHT?
TO RISK YOUR LIFE?
FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN.
TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
TO BE YOURSELF

TO SEEK JUSTICE IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN CITY.
"He told me he was vengeance! I was scared shitless of this freak."
TO BE LIKE HIM.
A FIRE. A FIRE IS BURNING INSIDE ME.
THE LIGHTS ARE COMING ON AGAIN. ALL THESE ROOMS. DARK. ABANDONED.
ALIVE AGAIN.
GOING SOMEWHERE?
GOOD EVENING, MR. JOON.
UH, NO, SIR. NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, MR. JOON?
UH, NO, SIR. NO ONE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING.
THERE WAS AN EMPLOYEE AT MY COMPANY WHO BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION YOUR WORK IN THE BOOKS.



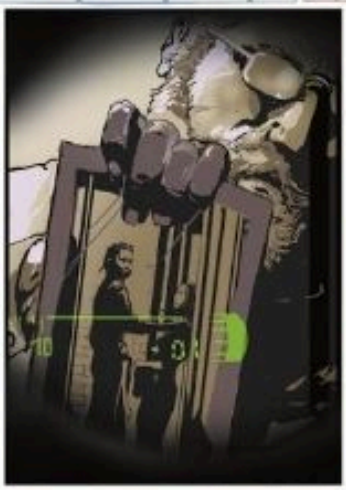
I CHANGE THE NUMBERS EVERY WEEK, SIR. JUST LIKE YOU SHOW ME.

MAYBE SO. BUT IT'S A GOOD THING MY EMPLOYEE CAUGHT IT.

BECAUSE DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW WHEN I LOOKED BEYOND THE OFFICIAL BOOKS? WHEN I LOOKED AT OUR PRODUCT AND CASH FLOW?

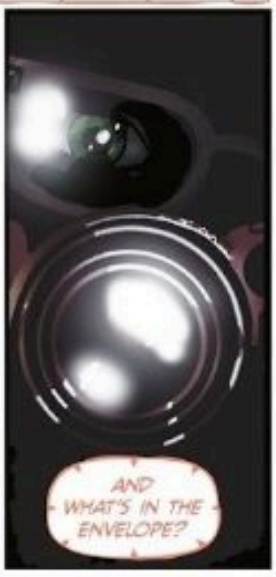
I SAW THAT SOMEONE WAS SKIMMING A LITTLE MONEY OFF THE TOP.

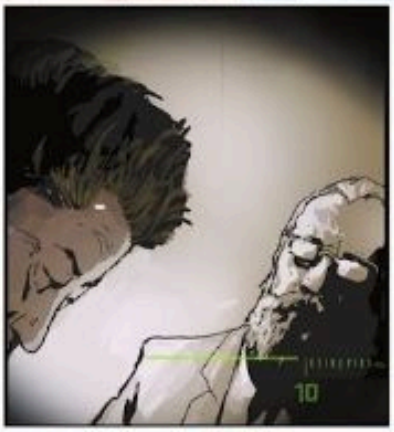
NOT ME, SIR! I MANAGE STORE, SIR, JUST LIKE YOU SHOW ME. I DO GOOD JOB, SIR.



THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER, IS IT NOT?

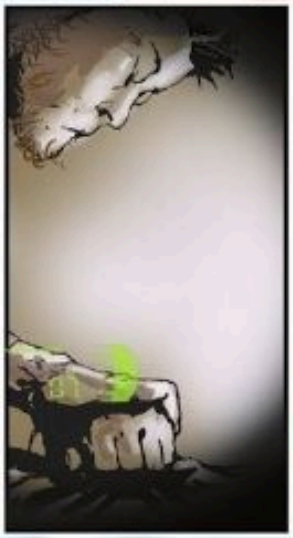
...YES...I...



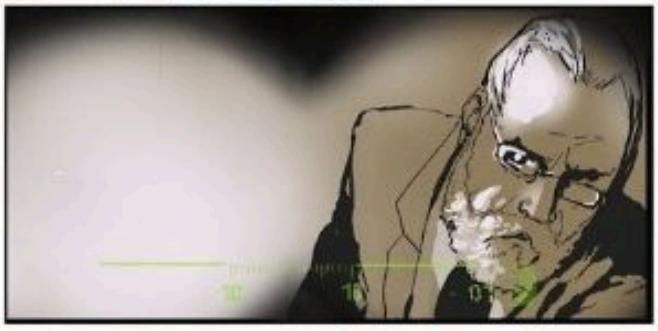


I GIVE HER MONEY I EARN. SO SHE CAN LEAVE GOTHAM SOMEDAY, SIR.

AND YOU WERE PLANNING TO GO WITH HER?

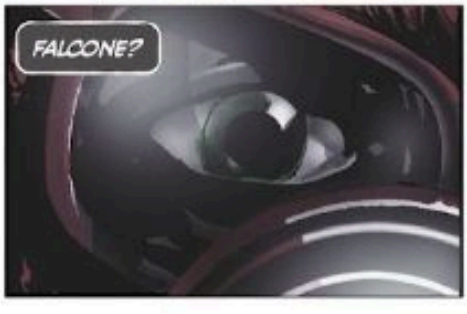


NO. I MEAN, YES. I...I TAKE HER THERE. THEN I COME BACK.



MR. JOON, SOMEONE TAKING MONEY FROM OUR STORE MEANS SOMEONE TAKING MONEY FROM ME. AND SOMEONE TAKING MONEY FROM ME MEANS SOMEONE TAKING MONEY FROM MR. FALCONE.

YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO TAKE MONEY FROM MR. FALCONE?

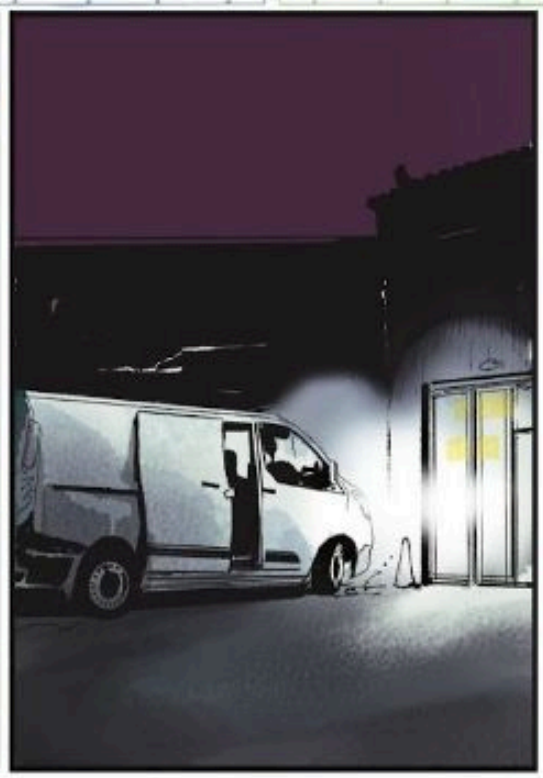


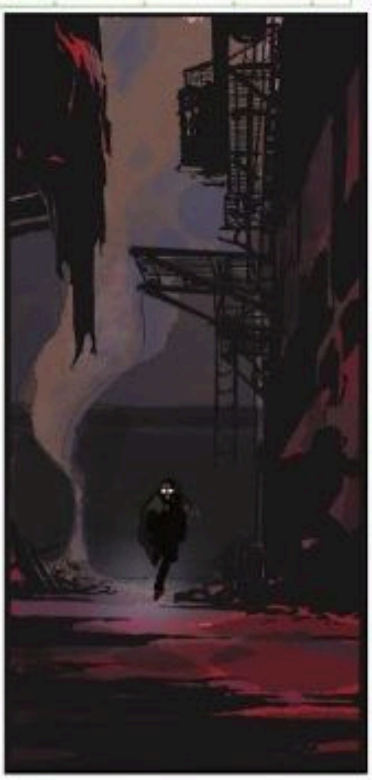
NO, SIR. IT WAS NOT ME. I SWEAR, SIR. THAT IS MY MONEY. I WORK HARD FOR THAT MONEY. I EARN THAT MONEY I GIVE TO HER!

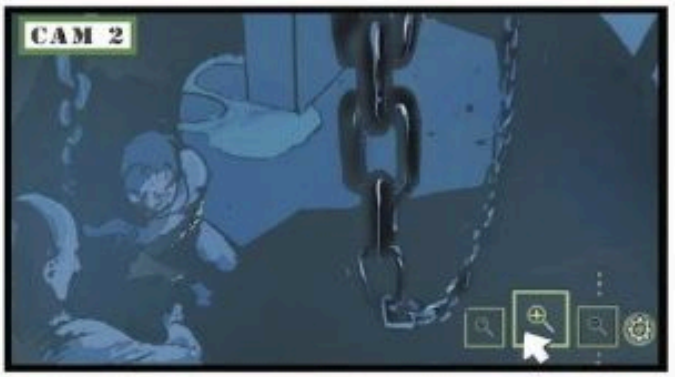
I'M DISAPPOINTED, MR. JOON. GOODBYE.

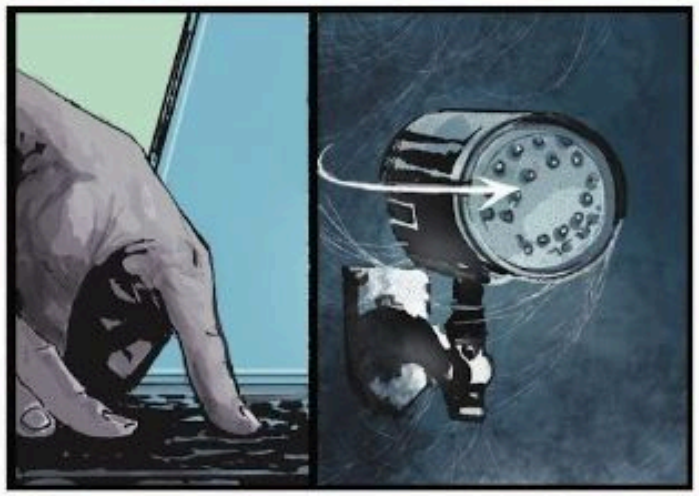
MR. STONE... WAIT! I SWEAR, IT WAS NOT ME!

YOU'RE COMING WITH US TO THE BACK OF THE STORE, PAL.



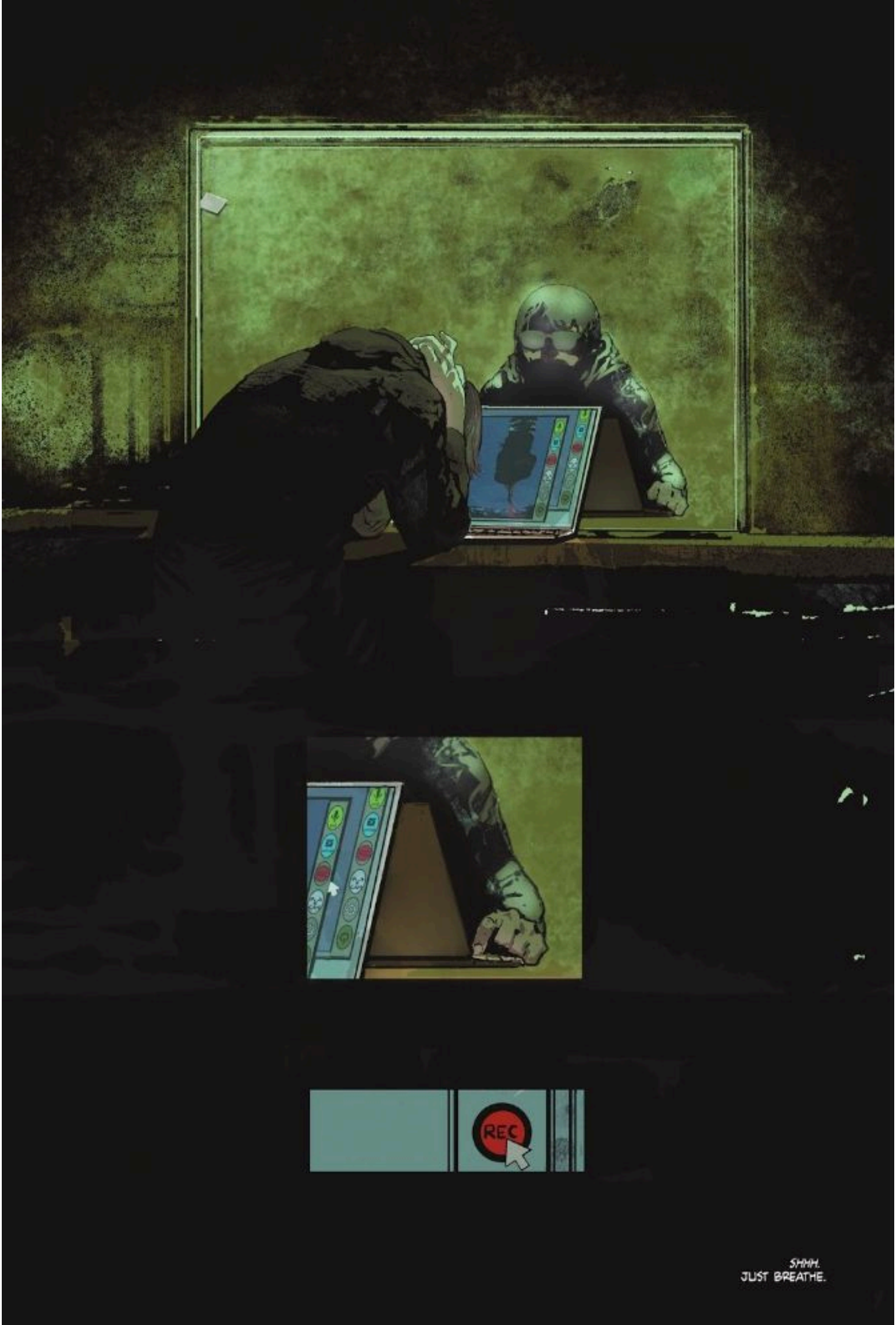






--MISTAKE! PLEASE! I BROUGHT MY DAUGHTER HERE SO SHE COULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE. BUT LIFE IS WORSE HERE IN GOTHAM. I AM TRYING TO GET MY FAMILY OUT. OUT OF THIS CITY OF HELL. BUT THAT IS MY MONEY. I EARN!

YA KNOW HOW MR. FALCONE GETS RID OF HIS BODIES, DON'T YOU?
NOOO!
NO!
AAAA---
CRACK
CRUNCH
AAAA---
CRACK
CRUNCH


REC
SHHH.
JUST BREATHE.

Exit
TRAIN TICKET
NAME OF PASSENGER
JOHN JOON
FROM
GOTHAM
TRAIN
0902
PLATFORM
2
TRAIN TICKET
NAME OF PASSENGER
ANA JOON
FROM
GOTHAM
TRAIN
0902
PLATFORM
3
TO
METROPOLIS
DEPARTURE
07:45
GOING SOMEWHERE, MS. JOON?
2
To be continued ...